Closure of public sector units in Rajasthan Implementation of ESI Scheme

*258. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for the closure of Public Sector Units in the Central Sector in Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) and (b) At present, there is no proposal to close any of the Central Public Sector Enterprises who have their registered offices in Rajasthan.

Implementation of ESI Scheme

*259. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the implementation of the ESI scheme is very poor in certain areas because of shortage of drugs and doctors coupled with their indifference and ill-equipped dispensaries, hospitals and rampant corruption;

(b) whether the situation has deteriorated after the addition of about 32 lakh more employees with salary limits of Rs. 1600/- per month to Rs. 3000/-;

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard;

(d) whether Government propose to make the applicability of the scheme optional leaving to the consensus between the workers and employer of a particular company; and

(e) whether Government will consider a proposal to make the E.S.I. card holders to get medical facilities from other Government hospitals also wherever the ESI hospital services are not available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (e) The Government is aware of the fact that there is need for improvement in the medical services provided under the Employees' State Insurance Scheme. In the existing frame work, except for Delhi and Noida, the implementation of the Scheme lies mainly with the State Governments. The Corporation has set up a Sub-Committee to oversee the working of the Scheme in the States and to make recommendations as appropriate from time to time. The Corporation also agreed to enhance with effect from 1.4.91 the per beneficiary financial support to the States from Rs. 270/- to Rs. 345/-, Rs. 100/- being earmarked exclusively for the purchase of medicines.

2. The increase in ceiling for coverage under the Scheme from Rs. 1600/- to Rs. 3000/- has been effected only from 1.4.1992. It is expected that with coverage of additional beneficiaries, the facilities under the Scheme will be more cost-effective.

3. There is no proposal presently to make the implementation of the Scheme optional leaving to the consensus between the workers and employers of a Company. The ESI Act however, provides that the appropriate Government may grant exemption to any factory/establishment if its employees are in receipt of benefits similar or superior to the benefits provided under the ESI Act.

4. The State Governments in consultation with the ESI Corporation make arrangements with selective other hospitals to provide specialised services as may be necessary to the beneficiaries of the ESIS.

Family Pension Schemes

*260. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the resentment among the labour about the Family Pension Scheme;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government propose to abolish the scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) No specific case of resentment among labour about the Family Pension Scheme has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) There is no proposal to abolish the existing benefits of the Family Pension Scheme.

(c) Does not arise.

Strike in Kalpakkam Atomic Power Plan

1934. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any strike by the employees in Kalpakkam Atomic Power Plant in April 1992;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what are the steps taken to solve the grievance of the employees; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the employees struck work in the past also, if so, what are the reasons for which such strikes occur repeatedly in this plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir. In the recent past, the employees of Madras Atomic Power Station struck work in January 1991 for three days and for one day in December 1991. The strike in January 1991 was with respect to the increase in prices of eatables in the canteen. The matter has been settled before the labour authorities. The strike in December 1991 was in connection with the finalisation of service conditions to be offered to the employees. The matter is before the management and the Government.

Setting up of new Atomic Reactors

1935. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of atomic reactors proposed to be installed in different parts of the country during Eighth Five Year Plan period; and

(b) what is the expected generation of power through these new reactors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) Present installed capacity of nuclear power stations in operation is 1500 MWe. During the Eighth Five Year Plan period (1992-97), two reactor units (2 x 220 MWe) at Kakrapar—1 & 2 Gujarat, two reactor units at Kaiga—1 & 2 Karnataka (2 x 220 MWe) and one reactor unit (220 MWe) at Rajasthan unit-3 which are under construction, are scheduled to be commissioned with a total capacity of 1100 MWe and taking the total nuclear installed capacity to 2600 MWe by end of the Eighth Five Year Plan period.

Increase in he prices of imported medicines

@1936. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of imported medicines have skyrocketted and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the prices of these life saving drugs have gone beyond the reach of needy patients mainly because these are listed in foreign at market rate; and

---

@Previously Unstarred Question 903, transferred from the 6th May, 1992.